

**PATENT COOPERATION TREATY**

PCT/GB2004/004876

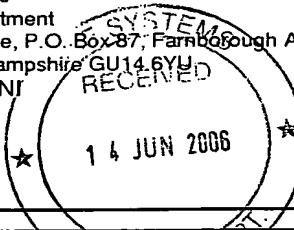
From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU  
*D&M MM.***PCT**

NOTIFICATION CONCERNING  
TRANSMITTAL OF COPY OF INTERNATIONAL  
PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY  
(CHAPTER I OF THE PATENT COOPERATION  
TREATY)  
(PCT Rule 44bis.1(c))

Date of mailing (*day/month/year*)  
08 June 2006 (08.06.2006)

To:

MACLEAN, Martin, David  
Bae Systems plc  
Group IP Department  
Lancaster House, P.O. Box 87, Farnborough Aerospace Centre  
Farnborough Hampshire GU14 6YU  
ROYAUME-UNI



Applicant's or agent's file reference  
XA1809

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

International application No.  
PCT/GB2004/004876

International filing date (*day/month/year*)  
18 November 2004 (18.11.2004)

Priority date (*day/month/year*)  
27 November 2003 (27.11.2003)

Applicant

BAE SYSTEMS PLC et al

The International Bureau transmits herewith a copy of the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

The International Bureau of WIPO  
34, chemin des Colombettes  
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

Facsimile No.+41 22 740 14 35

Authorized officer

Nora Lindner

Facsimile No.+41 22 338 89 65

# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

## PCT

### INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY (Chapter I of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Rule 44bis)

Applicant's or agent's file reference <b>XA1809</b>	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b>		See item 4 below
International application No. <b>PCT/GB2004/004876</b>	International filing date ( <i>day/month/year</i> ) <b>18 November 2004 (18.11.2004)</b>	Priority date ( <i>day/month/year</i> ) <b>27 November 2003 (27.11.2003)</b>	
International Patent Classification (8th edition unless older edition indicated) See relevant information in Form PCT/ISA/237			
Applicant <b>BAE SYSTEMS PLC</b>			

<p>1. This international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) is issued by the International Bureau on behalf of the International Searching Authority under Rule 44 bis.1(a).</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>In the attached sheets, any reference to the written opinion of the International Searching Authority should be read as a reference to the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) instead.</p>																																													
<p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15px; text-align: center; vertical-align: top;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> </td> <td style="width: 15px; text-align: center; vertical-align: top;"> <input type="checkbox"/> </td> <td style="width: 15px; text-align: center; vertical-align: top;"> <input type="checkbox"/> </td> <td style="width: 15px; text-align: center; vertical-align: top;"> <input type="checkbox"/> </td> <td style="width: 15px; text-align: center; vertical-align: top;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> </td> <td style="width: 15px; text-align: center; vertical-align: top;"> <input type="checkbox"/> </td> <td style="width: 15px; text-align: center; vertical-align: top;"> <input type="checkbox"/> </td> <td style="width: 15px; text-align: center; vertical-align: top;"> <input type="checkbox"/> </td> <td style="width: 15px; text-align: center; vertical-align: top;"> <input type="checkbox"/> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Box No. I</td> <td>Basis of the report</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Box No. V</td> <td>Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Box No. II</td> <td>Priority</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Box No. VI</td> <td>Certain documents cited</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Box No. III</td> <td>Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Box No. VII</td> <td>Certain defects in the international application</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Box No. IV</td> <td>Lack of unity of invention</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Box No. VIII</td> <td>Certain observations on the international application</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>4. The International Bureau will communicate this report to designated Offices in accordance with Rules 44bis.3(c) and 93bis.1 but not, except where the applicant makes an express request under Article 23(2), before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date (Rule 44bis .2).</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. I	Basis of the report			Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement				Box No. II	Priority			Box No. VI	Certain documents cited				Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability			Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application				Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention			Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application			
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<p>The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland</p> <p>Facsimile No. +41 22 740 14 35</p>	<p>Date of issuance of this report <b>29 May 2006 (29.05.2006)</b></p> <p>Authorized officer <b>Nora Lindner</b> Telephone No. +41 22 338 89 65</p>
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09/06

## PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

REC'D 22 FEB 2005

WIPO

PCT

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY  
(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing  
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference  
see form PCT/ISA/220

**FOR FURTHER ACTION**  
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.  
PCT/GB2004/004876

International filing date (day/month/year)  
18.11.2004

Priority date (day/month/year)  
27.11.2003

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC  
B29C70/44, B29C70/54

Applicant  
BAE SYSTEMS PLC

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- Box No. II Priority
- Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. **FURTHER ACTION**

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:



European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2  
NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas  
Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl  
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Van Wallene, A

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**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.  
PCT/GB2004/004876

**Box No. I Basis of the opinion**

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.  
 This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
  - a. type of material:  
 a sequence listing  
 table(s) related to the sequence listing
  - b. format of material:  
 in written format  
 in computer readable form
  - c. time of filing/furnishing:  
 contained in the international application as filed.  
 filed together with the international application in computer readable form.  
 furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3.  In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.  
PCT/GB2004/004876

**Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or  
industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

**1. Statement**

Novelty (N)                  Yes: Claims      1-10  
                                No: Claims

Inventive step (IS)           Yes: Claims      1-10  
                                No: Claims

Industrial applicability (IA)   Yes: Claims      1-10  
                                No: Claims

**2. Citations and explanations**

**see separate sheet**

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING  
AUTHORITY (SEPARATE SHEET)**

International application No.

PCT/GB2004/004876

**Re Item V**

**Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

Reference is made to the following document

D1: US-A-4 548 859 (KLINE WILLIAM T ET AL) 22 October 1985 (1985-10-22)

The document D1 is regarded as being the closest prior art to the subject-matter of claims 1 and 7, and shows a breather sheet as well as a method for its manufacture from which the subject-matter of claims 1 and 7 differ from this known sheet and method in that the breather sheet is assembled from a mesh layer with two distinct outer layers with holes, wherein the outer sheets are provided with holes prior to assembly.

The subject-matter of claims 1 and 7 is therefore new (Article 33(2) PCT).

The problem to be solved by the present invention may be regarded as insufficient surface quality of a composite product when the breather sheet known from D is used. This breather sheet has an outer coating made by applying a liquid to the mesh layer. Such method results in the outer layer closely following the internal mesh structure. This structure is consequently copied onto the composite part.

The solution to this problem proposed in claims 1 and 7 of the present application is considered as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT) for the following reasons: Using distinct outer layers results in a smoother outer surface of the breather, because the outer layers span the surface irregularities of the mesh instead of following them when a coating process is used as proposed in D1.

Neither the problem of insufficient composite surface quality when using a breather during manufacture nor the solution to the above problem are known from the prior art.

Claims 2 to 6 and 8 to 10 are dependent on claims 1 and 7 respectively and as such also meet the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step.